



Hiking Eastern Santa Cruz Island



Several trails and roads traverse eastern Santa Cruz Island, providing visitors with spectacular hiking opportunities. These trails and roads range from the maintained, relatively flat, signed trails of Scorpion Valley to the unmaintained, rugged, mountainous paths of the Montañon area. Hikers need to assume individual responsibility for planning their trips and hiking safely. To increase your odds of a safe hike, decrease your disturbance to wildlife, and lessen damage to resources, visitors should be in good physical condition and must follow the regulations and guidelines in the “Limiting Your Impact” section of the park newspaper and those listed below:

- Stay on trails and roads while hiking—avoid animal trails which are narrow, uneven, unstable, and dangerous.
 - Cliff edges should be avoided at all times since they tend to be crumbly and unstable. Stay well back. Children should be supervised.
 - Hikers should never hike alone—use the buddy system. This allows someone to go for help if you encounter trouble.
 - Carry plenty of water and drink it. One quart for short walks, more for longer hikes.
 - Be aware of poison oak, “jumping” cholla cactus, ticks, and scorpions. Poison oak can be identified by its clusters of three shiny leaflets. Some ticks carry disease; check your clothing and exposed skin after hiking.
- In order to help prevent wildfires, do not smoke on trails or in brush areas. Smoking is allowed only on beaches or other designated areas.
 - No hiking is allowed beyond the National Park boundary onto The Nature Conservancy property. The boundary is the property line (marked by a fenceline) between Prisoners Harbor and Valley Anchorage.
 - When departing from the islands, visitors are responsible for meeting the boat concessionaire on time. Be aware of departure time by asking the ranger or concessionaire employees.
 - Pack out what you pack in, including your trash. There are no trash cans on the island so please take your garbage with you. Also, please secure your food and trash at all time from animals.

| Destination | Distance <small>(miles, round-trip)</small> | Difficulty | Description |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| From Scorpion Beach: | | | |
| 1 Historic Ranch | .5 | Easy | View the historic Scorpion Ranch complex dating to the late 1800s. Although the building is currently closed for restoration, visitors may still view the adobe from behind the fenced area. |
| 2 Cavern Point Loop | 2 | Moderate | Not to be missed. Magnificent coastal vistas and whale viewing. To avoid a steep climb, hike clockwise, beginning from the lower campground and looping back to Scorpion Anchorage. From Cavern Point, you may also follow the North Bluff Trail west for 2 miles out to Potato Harbor |
| 3 Potato Harbor | 5 | Moderate | A longer hike than the Cavern Point hike, but also with spectacular coastal views. No beach access. |
| 4 Scorpion Canyon Loop | 4.5 | Moderate to strenuous | A scenic loop hike to the interior with a chance to see the unique island scrub-jay. To avoid a steep climb, hike clockwise starting on the Smugglers Road towards the oil well and eventually, down into Scorpion Canyon and back out to the beach. Hike off-trail into the right (or northwest) fork of Scorpion Canyon to see the island scrub-jay, but be prepared for extremely rocky conditions. |
| 5 Smugglers Cove | 7 | Strenuous | Follow the Smugglers Road to the cobblestone beach at Smugglers Cove. |
| 6 Montañon Ridge | 8 | Strenuous | For experienced, off-trail hikers. Great views. This ridge can also be reached from Smugglers Cove (8 miles round-trip) and Prisoners Harbor (21 miles round-trip). |
| From Smugglers Cove: | | | |
| 7 Smugglers Canyon | 2 | Strenuous | Off-trail hiking in a stream bed (seasonal water) with native vegetation and steep canyon walls. Be prepared for uneven terrain and loose rock. |
| 8 Yellowbanks | 3 | Moderate | This hike along an unmaintained route leads to an overlook. No beach access without an off-trail scramble. |
| 9 San Pedro Point | 4 | Moderate | This off-trail hike leads to an overlook. No beach access. For experienced, off-trail hikers. |
| From Prisoners Harbor: | | | |
| 10 Prisoners Harbor | .5 | Easy | View the historic Prisoners Harbor area and search for the island scrub-jay (usually found in the eucalyptus trees or stream-side vegetation). Walk up the Navy Road for a short distance to get a nice view from above. |
| 11 Del Norte Camp | 7 | Strenuous | Follow the rugged Del Norte trail east to the backcountry camp. Good views and canyons. |
| 12 Navy Road / Del Norte Loop | 8.5 | Strenuous | Longer loop route which visits Del Norte camp and provides views to the south side of the island. Route includes the Navy and Del Norte Roads and the Del Norte Trail. |
| 13 Chinese Harbor | 15.5 | Strenuous | A long hike via the Del Norte trail or Navy Road that ends at a cobblestone beach. |
| 14 China Pines | 18 | Strenuous | Another long hike via the Del Norte trail or Navy Road with a chance to see the unique Santa Cruz Isl. pine. |
| 15 Pelican Bay | 4 | Moderate to strenuous | This trail may only be traveled by those that have obtained a permit in advance from The Nature Conservancy or are accompanied by Island Packer (boat concessionaire) staff. |

This map details Scorpion Canyon, featuring several trails and roads. The Scorpion Canyon Loop Trail is shown as a dashed line, with four numbered points of interest: 1 near the Scorpion Anchorage, 2 at Cavern Point, 3 at Potato Harbor, and 4 near the Scorpion Canyon Loop Trail. Other trails include the Cavern Point Trailhead and the Scorpion Canyon Loop Trail. Roads shown are Service Road, Smugglers Road, and Potato Harbor Road. Landmarks include Cavern Point, Scorpion Anchorage, and Potato Harbor. A scale bar indicates distances up to 0.5 miles, and a compass rose shows North.

[illegible]

No commercial or recreational fishing.

(Refer to the National Marine Sanctuary's Protecting Your Channel Islands brochure for more information)

*Please avoid disturbing sensitive pinniped and seabird areas found throughout the island.